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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/661,082

09/12/2003

John A. Moon

CV-0040

7101

7590

10/12/2004

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EXAMINER

LAVARIAS, ARNEL C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2872

DATE MAILED: 10/12/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/661,082

Applicant(s)

MOON ET AL.

Examiner

Arnel C. Lavarias

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/20/04, 6/22/04, 5/28/04, 3/4/04, 9/12/03.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-83 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-83 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9/12/03, 3/4/04 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/22/04, 5/28/04.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The cancellation of Claims 1-23 in the submission dated 9/20/04 is acknowledged and accepted.
2. The addition of Claims 24-83 in the submission dated 9/20/04 is acknowledged and accepted.

Priority

3. Applicant has not complied with one or more conditions for receiving the benefit of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120 as follows:

An application in which the benefits of an earlier application are desired must contain *a specific reference to the prior application(s) in the first sentence of the specification or in an application data sheet (37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) and (a)(5))*. The specific reference to any prior nonprovisional application must include the relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) between the applications except when the reference is to a prior application of a CPA assigned the same application number.

Information Disclosure Statement

4. With respect to the information disclosure statement filed 6/22/04, citations on Pages 2-4 were lined through since there were previously cited in the information disclosure

statement filed 5/28/04. Additionally, the foreign patent document 9715690, dated 5/1997, was lined through since no copy of such a document was submitted. Finally, the citation on Page 5 was lined through since that citation was improperly listed (i.e. publication number and associated identifiers do not match).

Drawings

5. The drawings were received on 9/12/03 as part of the original submission of the disclosure of the instant application.
6. The formal drawings were received on 3/4/04. These drawings are objected to for the following reason(s) as set forth below.
7. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description:
 - Figure 8- Reference numeral 861
 - Figure 12- Reference numeral 89
 - Figure 14- Reference numeral 321
 - Figure 22- Reference numeral 630
 - Figure 32e- Reference numeral 576
 - Figure 35- Reference numeral 514.
8. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description:
 - Figure 9- Reference numeral 203
 - Figure 32- Reference numeral 560.

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9. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “847 has been used to designate both a food container and a plant (as shown in Figure 7).

10. The drawings are objected to because of the following informalities:

Formal drawings for Figures 35 and 36 were not submitted in the drawing submission dated 3/4/04

Figure 11 fails to show the features as described on Page 9, lines 1-3 of the disclosure.

11. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

12. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Abstract, line 3- ‘A methods’ should read ‘Methods’.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

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13. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Page 1, lines 9-11, 14-15; Page 7, lines 11-12- appropriate publication serial numbers should be supplied

Page 12, line 22- insert 'be' after 'can'

Page 15, line 9- delete line

Page 15, line 10- 'The' should read 'the'

Page 23, line 17- '705' should read '703'

Page 23, line 23- 'undefracted' should read 'undiffracted'

Page 24, line 13- 'un-defracted' should read 'undiffracted'

Page 24, line 29- insert 'to' after 'due'

Page 26, line 27- '452' should read '454'

Page 34, line 16- 'a' should read 'an'.

Appropriate correction is required.

Double Patenting

14. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

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Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

15. Claims 24-35, 44-45, 50-55, 57-60 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 21-45 of copending Application No. 10/661254. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because copending Application No. 10/661254 similarly recites an optical identification element for identifying an item and associated methods for reading a code with an optical identification element that is disposed on the item, as set forth in Claims 24-35, 44-45, 50-55, 57-60 of the instant application. Further, it is noted that 1) 'a synthesized chemical' or the substrate (See for example Claim 21 of copending Application No. 10/661254) generally corresponds to an item as recited in the instant application, and 2) it would have been readily apparent and obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to perform the methods of reading the encoded optical identification element and encoded particle based on the recited structure provided for the optical identification element and encoded particle.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

16. Claims 24-60, 71-74 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 20-56, 58-94, 96-98, 114, 116-118, 134 of copending Application No. 10/645686. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because copending Application No. 10/645686 similarly recites an optical identification

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element for identifying an item and associated methods for reading a code with an optical identification element that is disposed on the item, as set forth in Claims 24-60, 71-74 of the instant application. Further, it is noted that 1) the recited attached 'chemical' or the substrate (See for example Claim 20 of copending Application No. 10/645686) generally corresponds to an item as recited in the instant application.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

17. Claims 24-60, 71-74 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 20-56, 58-94, 96-98, 114, 116-118, 134 of copending Application No. 10/661031. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because copending Application No. 10/661031 similarly recites an optical identification element for identifying an item and associated methods for reading a code with an optical identification element that is disposed on the item, as set forth in Claims 24-60, 71-74 of the instant application. Further, it is noted that 1) the recited attached 'chemical' or the substrate (See for example Claim 20 of copending Application No. 10/661031) generally corresponds to an item as recited in the instant application.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

18. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

19. Claims 24-27, 35, 45, 48-49, 51, 53, 55-56, 58-59, 61-67, 69-73, 75-80, 82-83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Grot et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6005691).

Grot et al. discloses an optical identification element for identifying an item, such as an ID card having identity information, and method for reading a code associated with an optical identification element that is disposed on the item (See Figures 3A, 3B, 5A, 5B), the element being at least partially disposed on the item (See for example 100 in Figure 3A-B) attached thereto, the element and method both comprising a substrate (See 109 in Figure 3B); at least a portion of the substrate having at least one diffraction grating disposed therein (See 111 in Figure 3B), the grating having a resultant refractive index variation at a grating location (it is noted that features 111 appear as a variation of refractive index that alternates between the refractive index of substrate 109 and the refractive index of 117 when taken along a line parallel to the substrate surface, located in the plane of Figure 3B, and drawn bisecting the grating structure 111); and the grating providing an output optical signal indicative of a code (See 215, 221, 223 in Figure 5A; col. 8, line 23-col. 10, line 48) when illuminated by an incident light signal propagating in free space; and the element being at least partially disposed on the item. Grot et al.

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additionally discloses the refractive index variation comprising at least one or more refractive index pitches superimposed at a grating location (See 111 in Figure 3B); the substrate being made of plastic (See col. 4, lines 32-47); the light source comprising one or more wavelengths (See col. 9, lines 59-65); the substrate having a coating material disposed on at least a portion of the substrate, the coating comprising a polymer (See 117 in Figure 3B); the substrate having an end cross section geometry and a side view geometry that is rectangular (See Figure 3A); the substrate having a grating region where the grating is located and a non-grating region where the grating is not located at, and the substrate has a plurality of grating regions (See Figure 3A), the grating region having a refractive index not greater than that of the non-grating region (See col. 7, lines 50-57); the incident light being incident on the substrate at an angle to a longitudinal axis of the grating (See Figure 5A); the incident light comprising laser light (See col. 9, lines 59-65); the substrate comprising a plurality of gratings each at different locations within the substrate (See Figure 3A); and the substrate being disposed on an outer surface of the item (See Figures 3A-B) and made of a material that allows the code to be detected from the output signal (See Figures 3A-B, 5A; col. 4, line 15-col. 5, line 4).

20. Claims 24-31, 33, 35-37, 39, 41-45, 47-83 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Frankel (U.S. Patent No. 6096496), of record.

Frankel discloses an optical identification element (See Figures 1, 8-15, 17) for identifying an item (See for example 130, 160, 165 in Figures 1A-B), an item having the optical identification element, and associated methods for labeling and reading a code associated with the optical identification element that is disposed on the item, both the

element/item and method comprising a substrate (See for example 190, 125, 160 in Figure 1A) such as a particle or bead; at least a portion of the substrate having at least one or more thin diffraction gratings disposed therein (See for example 902a-f in Figure 9; 1003a-f in Figure 10; 1103a-f in Figure 11; 1204a-f in Figure 12; 1401a-e in Figure 14; 1506a-i in Figure 15) at different locations on the substrate, the grating having a resultant refractive index variation at a grating location (it is noted that features appear as a variation of refractive index that alternates between the refractive indices of the materials comprising the grating); and the grating providing an output optical signal indicative of a code (See 180 in Figure 1A; col. 11, line 44-col. 12, line 43) when illuminated by an incident light signal propagating in free space (See 170 in Figure 1A); and the element being at least partially disposed on the item. Further, Frankel discloses a method for performing a multiplexed particle assay, comprising obtaining a plurality of particles each having at least one or more thin diffraction grating disposed therein at different locations on the substrate, the grating having a resultant refractive index variation at a grating location; attaching at least one probe to at least one of the particles, thereby providing functionalized particles; placing the functionalized particles in contact with at least one analyte, the analyte having a corresponding label disposed thereon; illuminating the particles with at least one incident light, the particle providing a first light signal indicative of a code and a second light signal indicative of the label; reading the first output light and detecting the code therefrom; and reading the second output light and detecting the label therefrom (See Figures 1A-B; 8-12; 14-15; 17-20). Frankel additionally discloses at least one or more refractive index pitches superimposed at a

grating location (See for example Figures 9-12, 14-15, 17); the substrate being made of glass (See col. 11, lines 27-43); the code comprising a plurality of digital bits, numbering for example 4 or 20 (See col. 11, line 44-col. 12, line 43), each bit having a plurality of states, each bit having a corresponding spatial location and having a value related to the intensity of the output signal at the spatial location of each bit (See also Figures 1A-B; 9-12, 15-15, 17); the incident light comprising at least one or more wavelengths (See col. 15, lines 6-12; col. 32, lines 4-21; col. 32, line 66-col. 33, line 25) from for example a laser; the dimensions of the bead, and hence the substrate being less than 2 mm (See col. 6, lines 65-67); the substrate having a reflective coating disposed thereon (See for example 904a-f in Figure 9); the substrate having a coating disposed on at least a portion of the substrate, at least a portion of the coating being made of a material, such as glass, plastic or polymer, that allows sufficient amount of incident light to pass through the material to allow detection of the code (See for example 125, 125' in Figures 1A-B; col. 13, lines 36-53); the substrate having protruding sections (See for example Figures 9-12; 17); the substrate having an end and side view geometry that is circular or elliptical (See for example Figures 1A-B); a portion of the substrate having a 3-D shape of a cube with unequal sides or a sphere with nonuniform diameter (See for example 160, 190 in Figures 1A-B); the substrate having a grating region where the grating is located and a non-grating region where the grating is not located (See for example Figures 9-12; 14-15; 17); the substrate having a plurality of grating regions (See for example Figures 9-12; 14-15; 17); the grating region having a refractive index that is greater than that of the non-grating region (See for example Figures 14-15; col. 26, lines 44-67; in this particular

case, the refractive index of 1501 near the grating 1506a-f is greater than the refractive index of a region in 1502b far away from the grating); the grating region having a refractive index that is not greater than that of the non-grating region (See for example Figures 14-15; col. 26, lines 44-67; in this particular case, the refractive index of 1501 near and away from the grating 1506a-f are the same); the incident light being incident on the substrate along a longitudinal axis of the grating or at an angle to the longitudinal axis of the grating (See Figures 1, 9-12, 14-15, 17); at least a portion of the substrate is disposed on an outer surface or within the item and the item is made of a material that allows the code to be detected from the output signal (See Figures 1A-B; col. 13, lines 36-53); the item being a small object (See Figures 1A-B); and the code includes identity information (See col. 11, lines 4-25).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

21. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

22. Claims 32, 34, 38, and 40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frankel.

Frankel discloses the invention as set forth above in Claim 24, but does not specifically disclose the value of each bit corresponding to presence or absence of a corresponding refractive index pitch in the grating, and hence the value of each bit

corresponding to the magnitude of refractive index variation of a corresponding refractive index pitch in the grating. However, Frankel does teach that the presence or absence of a particular spectral color determines whether a particular bit in the code has a '1' or '0', corresponding to presence or absence of the spectral color respectively (See col. 11, line 62-col. 12, line 31). Since each bit is represented by a particular emitter structure (with associated grating(s)), it would have been a logical and obvious matter to one of ordinary skill in the art not have present a particular emitter structure (and its associated grating(s)) if that particular bit will always be '0'. Thus, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the optical identification element and particle and method for reading an encoded optical identification element and encoded particle of Frankel further include the value of each bit corresponding to presence or absence of a corresponding refractive index pitch in the grating, and hence the value of each bit corresponding to the magnitude of refractive index variation of a corresponding refractive index pitch in the grating, such as by permanently removing, or not including, a particular emitter or set of emitters (and their associated grating(s)) for those bits that will always be a particular value, namely '0'. One would have been motivated to do this to reduce the complexity, cost, construction, and size of the resultant optical identification element/particle.

23. Claim 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frankel in view of Yguerabide et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6214560).

Frankel discloses the invention as set forth above in Claim 24, except for the substrate having a magnetic or electric charge polarization. However, constructing the bead out of

a material having a magnetic or electric charge polarization is well known in the art. For example, Yguerabide et al. teaches a method and apparatus for detecting one or more analytes by detecting the light scattered from the particles after the analytes have associated with the particles (See for example Abstract; Figures 21-24, 28-30). In particular, the particles are made of a material having electric or magnetic polarization to allow them to be oriented in the presence of an applied electric or magnetic field (See col. 12, lines 5-43; col. 40, lines 44-65; col. 88, line 24-col. 89, liner 20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the substrate having a magnetic or electric charge polarization, as taught by Yguerabide et al., in the optical identification element and particle of Frankel, for the purpose of facilitating or optimizing readout of the codes in the element/particle by proper alignment of the element/particle.

Conclusion

24. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Examiner would like to draw Applicants' attention to U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0129654 A1, to Ravkin et al., which is of record. It is noted that Ravkin et al. discloses a coded particle system (See in particular Abstract; Figures 13-11, 33-36) similar to that recited in the Applicants' disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 6542673 to Holter et al.

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Holter is being cited to evidence a device and system for uniquely identifying particular optical components (See for example Figures 1A, 2-6) through the use of a machine readable identifier, such as a Bragg grating.

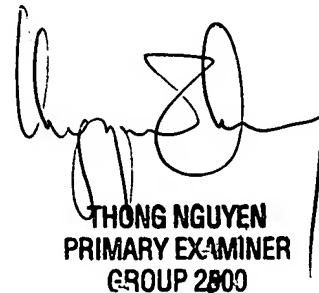
25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arnel C. Lavarias whose telephone number is 571-272-2315. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 AM - 5 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Drew Dunn can be reached on 571-272-2312. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Arnel C. Lavarias
9/29/04



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